

get it. There was a time, decades ago, when Congress actually needed to pass specified training programs with specific purposes and mechanisms to implement them. But that time has long since passed. Almost every American is within driving distance of a community college or some other mechanism of advanced training. And almost every American has more than enough sense to decide what is in his or her best interest, given a little good helpful advice on the available alternatives.

The law streamlines and consolidates a tangle of training programs, therefore, into a single, commonsense system. And it also expands our successful model of One-Stop Career Centers so people don't have to trot around to one different agency after another when they find themselves in the position that Mr. Antosy found himself in. It enhances accountability for tough performance standards for States and communities and training providers, even as it gives more flexibility to the States to develop innovative ways to serve our working people better.

It helps to create opportunities for disadvantaged youth. And I think that is terribly important. Everybody is concerned about the juvenile crime rate; we need to be concerned, therefore, about the number of juveniles that are out here on the street, out of school, not doing what could be done to give them a more constructive future.

And finally, it does two more things that I think are quite important. It has a real emphasis on helping people with disabilities prepare for employment, and it gives adults who need it literacy support to move ahead. You cannot train for a lot of these programs if you cannot read at an adequate level. And I think that is terribly important.

What all this amounts to is that we get to celebrate Labor Day a month early this year. At long last, we're giving our workers the tools they need to move quickly to 21st century jobs, higher incomes, and brighter futures. I thank all those on this stage, all those in this audience, and those who could not be here who have worked and waited for this day.

Let me also say that just a couple of minutes ago I had the chance to sign another bill that helps all Americans share in our prosperity, the Credit Union Membership

Access Act. Credit unions serve a vital and unique purpose; they make sure financial services and credit are available to people of modest means. The law I signed strengthens them, helps them to withstand hard economic times, clarifies who can join, and ensures that those who are in credit unions now won't ever get locked out. It will help extend greater credit to those who need it most. It is also good for our economy.

Both these bills are bipartisan bills. They passed with overwhelming bipartisan majorities. They show what can happen when we can put our differences aside and put progress ahead of partisanship and people ahead of politics. That's a good thing because our plate is still full. In the few days remaining in this legislative session, we must still work together to save Social Security first, secure funding for the International Monetary Fund to stabilize our own economic growth, to pass a strong Patients' Bill of Rights, a very crowded education agenda built on excellence and opportunity, and an important element of our environmental agenda to preserve our environment and grow the economy.

We can do all these things. And as we see today on this very happy occasion, when we do it, we strengthen our country and the future of the children over there with Congressman Roemer and all the others like them throughout America.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:04 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to job training beneficiary James Antosy, who introduced the President; and ex-gangmember Benny Hernandez, currently a successful college student. H.R. 1385, approved August 7, was assigned Public Law No. 105-220.

Proclamation 7115—Victims of the Bombing Incidents in Africa

August 7, 1998

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As a mark of respect for those killed in the bombing incidents outside the United

States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States of America by section 175 of title 36 of the United States Code, that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset, Sunday, August 9, 1998. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:48 a.m., August 10, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on August 11.

Executive Order 13097— Interparliamentary Union *August 7, 1998*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 1 of the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288), and having found that the Interparliamentary Union is a public international organization in which the United States participates within the meaning of the International Organizations Immunities Act, I hereby designate the Interparliamentary Union as a public international organization entitled to enjoy the privileges, exemptions, and immunities conferred by the International Organizations Immunities Act. This designation is not intended to abridge in any respect privileges, exemptions, or immunities that such organization may have ac-

quired or may acquire by international agreements or by congressional action.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
August 7, 1998

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., August 10, 1998]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on August 11.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 2

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC, from East Hampton, NY.

August 3

In the morning, the President met with President-elect Andres Pastrana of Colombia in the Oval Office. Later, the President traveled to Cheverly, MD, and returned to Washington, DC, in the afternoon.

August 4

The President announced his intention to appoint Eugene Kinlow, Constance Newman, and Darius Mans as Chair, Vice Chair, and member, respectively, of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority.

August 5

In the morning, the President made remarks to the House Democratic caucus at the Cannon House Office Building.

In the evening, the President met with Deputy President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa in the Oval Office.

The President declared a major disaster in Michigan and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and high winds on July 21–22.